

## **FISCAL NOTE**

### **HB 525 - SB 1419**

February 17, 2001

**SUMMARY OF BILL:** Provides definition to distinguish a *guardian ad litem* from a *lay guardian ad litem*. A guardian ad litem is a licensed attorney who serves in a representative capacity for a child in a legal proceeding such as divorce, parenting plan, or juvenile court case. A lay guardian ad litem is a non-lawyer who performs fact finding and similar functions as directed by the court, but may not speak for the child, question witnesses, or make legal arguments.

### **ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT:**

#### **MINIMAL**

Assumes no change in the method of appointing attorneys as guardians ad litem in juvenile court proceedings for which they receive reimbursement for indigent cases. Provisions of the bill may assist courts in using the services of volunteer as lay guardians ad litem.

### **CERTIFICATION:**

This is to duly certify that the information contained herein is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.



James A. Davenport, Executive Director

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